

Claims

1. A method for routing the tariff associated with one or more data transactions in a mobile telecommunication network to an appropriate billing system, wherein the mobile telecommunication network incorporates a data switching centre, the data switching centre being adapted to receive data transactions transmitted by a subscriber to the telecommunication network and route them to an appropriate destination, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) receiving service detail records from a data switching centre associated with the mobile telecommunication network, the service detail records being associated with a specific data transaction having been previously transmitted by, or to, a subscriber within the telecommunication network, the service detail record containing a unique indicia associated with the subscriber,
 - b) associating the retrieved unique indicia with one or more records previously stored in a subscriber database so as to establish a routing criteria for the specific subscriber,
 - c) effecting the calculation of a tariff for the data transaction, and
 - d) routing the tariff to one or more billing destinations, being selectable from a plurality of available billing destinations, in accordance with the routing criteria previously established.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the routing criteria is determined based on the parameters uniquely associatable with the specific data transaction.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the routing criteria is determined independently of parameters uniquely associatable with the specific data transaction.
4. The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the one or more billing destinations are selected from the following:

- 5 a) an account uniquely associatable with the subscriber, updatable by the subscriber, and referenceable by the subscriber database, and/or
- b) an account uniquely associatable with the subscriber, updatable by the subscriber, and interfaced with another component of the mobile network.
- 10 5. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the account is updatable upon the transmission of a data transaction by the subscriber within the telecommunication network.
- 15 6. The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the routing of the tariff is effected in the same time frame as the transmission of the data transaction.
7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the routing of the tariff is delayed for a predetermined time period so as to enable the grouping of multiple tariffs for subsequent routing to a billing destination.
- 20 8. The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the one or more billing destinations are adapted to enable communication there between such that any one billing destination can be updated by another billing destination.
9. A method of evaluating a data transaction so as to determine a correct transaction tariff value for the specific data transaction, the method comprising the steps of:
- 25 a) receiving a message identifier from at least one messaging platform, the message identifier being associated with a specific data transaction being routed through the messaging platform and having at least one unique identifier associated with a subscriber to the telecommunication network linkable thereto,
- 30 b) comparing the at least one identifier to a set of identifiers previously defined so as to determine a correct transaction tariff value for the data transaction,

c) routing the tariff value determined to one or more tariff destinations, the routing being determined based on the comparison of the at least one identifier with the set of identifiers previously defined, and wherein the determination of the correct tariff value is effected in a multi-step process.

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10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the step of determining the correct tariff value for the transaction is effected by:

- a) applying a set of pre-configurable rules to rating parameters uniquely identifiable with the specific data transaction so as to determine a rating criteria for that data transaction, and
- 10 b) comparing that rating criteria to a plurality of pricing criterion to evaluate the correct pricing criteria for that rating criteria, the correct pricing criteria providing the correct tariff value.

15 11. The method as claimed in claim 9 or 10 wherein the correct tariff value may be further modified by at least one price modifier, the at least one price modifier being definable by a set of rules uniquely associatable with the subscriber, and wherein the modified tariff value is the correct tariff value.

20 12. A billing and routing module for interfacing with a data switching centre, the module being adapted to evaluate specific data transactions and apply a suitable tariff to those transactions and also determine a suitable billing destination for those transactions, the module comprising:

- a) means for receiving at least one identifier uniquely associatable with a data transaction from the data switching centre,
- 25 b) means for evaluating the data transaction so as to determine a correct tariff rate for that transaction,
- c) means for routing that tariff rate to a billing destination, and

wherein the billing destination is selected from a plurality of configurable billing destinations, at least one of which is not co-resident with the module.

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